there was nothing to be gained by conferring any special mark of distinction upon him.

It is not likely that in the frightful condition in which the roads then were,[1] any invasion of East Tennessee would have been attempted as the immediate consequence of the victory of Mill Spring**.[2] But before any step of this kind could be taken, the situation in the western part of Kentucky suddenly assumed a gravity which absorbed all the attention of General Buell, and caused him to arrest Thomas's further movements.

It will be remembered that General Halleck liatl, early in January, expressed his inability to co-operate with General Buell to any serviceable extent, and had also disapproved of his plan of operations, lie indtwd ordered[3] General Grant, who commanded the District of Cairo, to make, early in January, a demonstration up the Tennessee River in conjunction with the gun-boats under Commodore Foote, and theme active officers performed their task with alacrity.

But this was a matter of no importance. On January 20th, Halleck wrote to the General-in-chief,[4] advocating a movement up the Cumberland and TenneHoee, making Nashville the first objective point [a] Thi8,[w] he said, ' would turn Columbus, and force the **aban***

donment of Bowling Green." He, however,

[1] Thomas to Buell, Jan. 13, 1862 ; same to Schoepf, same elate ; 7 W, ft, 550. Fry to Wood, Jan. 16, 1862; Mitchel to Buell, same date ; 7 W. R. 556. Buell to McClellan, Feb. r, 1862 ; 7 W. R., 931.

[2] 7W. R., 932.

[3] -^M 533 J Jan. 6, 1862.

[4] 8 W. R., 508-510.